

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 03547 160601Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7842
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S E C R E T TEHRAN 3547

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR UNSC MOPS LE IS IR
SUBJ: ADDED IRANIAN FORCE FOR UNIFIL

REF/ STATE 95865

1. GENERAL AZHARI INFORMED ME EVENING APRIL 15 THAT ONCE HE IS GIVEN GREEN LIGHT, HE COULD DEPLOY ADDITIONAL IRANIAN BATTALION TO UNIFIL IN FORTH-EIGHT HOURS. THUS, IRANAISN COULD BE IN LEBANON WELL BEFORE END OF APRIL IF ISRAEL AGREES TO STATEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL IN NEXT FEW DAYS. (MY OWN MILITARY ADVISERS SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO ALLOW SOME SLIPPAGE IN THIS ESTIMATE. UNLESS BATTALION IS ALREADY POSITIONED WITH ITS EQUIPMENT AT PORT OF EMBARKATION, THEY FEEL THREE TO FOUR DAYS IS A MORE REALISTIC ESTIMATE.)

2. NEWS OF THE ADDITIONAL IRANIAN TROOP OFFER, TOGETHER WITH THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH IT IS BEING OFFERED, IS FRONT PAGE NEWS IN TEHRAN PRESS MORNING APRIL 16. STORY IS REPORTED BOTH FROM NEW YORK AND TEHRAN SOURCES. ASSUME THIS PUBLICITY MAY MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR ISRAELIS TO
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 03547 160601Z

MAKE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AT THIS TIME.

3. KHALATBARY LEAVES APRIL 17 FOR LONDON WHERE HE WILL MEET SECRETARY DURING CENTO MINISTERIAL. IRANIAN UN PERM REP HOVEYDA, WHO HAS BEEN IN IRAN BRIEFLY, IS RETURNING TO NEW YORK TODAY. DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING SPECIAL SESSION FOR FINANCING UNIFIL CAN BE CONCENTRATED WITH THESE TWO

OFFICIALS.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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